

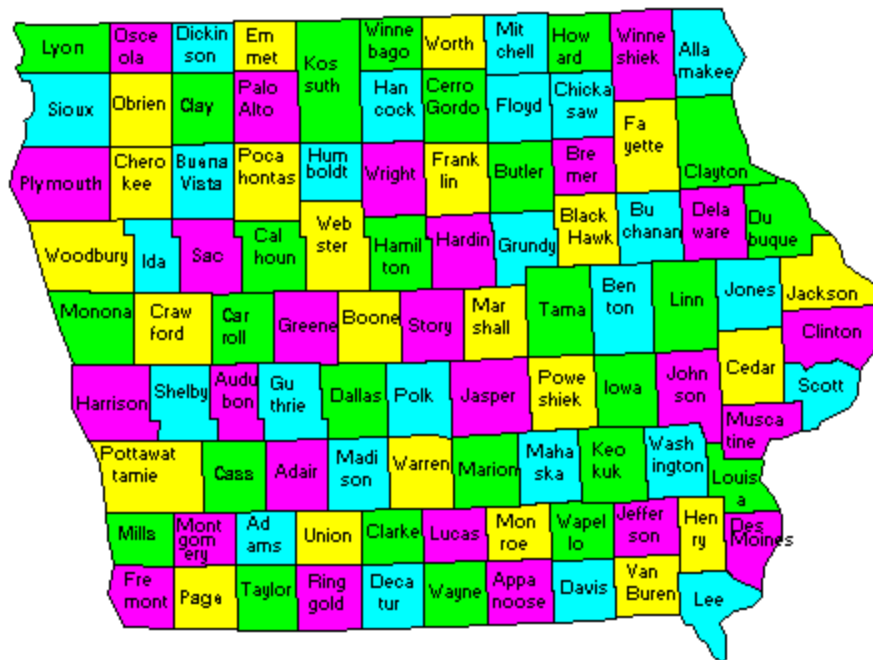
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Iowa

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Iowa

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 2,777,000 (1990 Census), 2,869,000 (1999 estimate)
- Gender: 48.4% Male, 51.6% Female
- Age: 25.2% under 18 years old, 15.1% 65 years old and over
- Race/Ethnicity: 96.6% White; 1.7% Black; .3% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; .9% Asian or Pacific Islander; 1.8% Hispanic Origin
- Percent of population below poverty level: 9.1% (1998)

Politics²

- Senate Members: Charles Grassley (R), Tom Harkin (D)
- House Members: Jim Leach (R), Jim Nussle (R), Leonard Boswell (D), Greg Ganske (R), Tom Lantham (R)
- Governor: Thomas Vilsack
- Lt. Governor: Sally Pederson
- Attorney General: Tom Miller
- Department of Public Safety: Commissioner E.A. Westfall
- Department of Public Health: Director Stephen C. Gleason
- Midwest HIDTA Director: David Barton

Programs/Initiatives

- Midwest HIDTA:
The Midwest HIDTA was designated in 1996 and includes counties from the States of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The counties in Iowa that are part of the HIDTA include Muscatine, Polk, Pottawamie, Scott, Marshall, Black Hawk, Appanoose, and Woodbury. This HIDTA was set up to deal with the methamphetamine problem in the Midwest region of the United States. The region's position in the "Heart of America" provides a fertile environment for the production and distribution of methamphetamine that is either produced locally or imported primarily by Mexican organizations. The region is predominantly rural with an economy firmly rooted in an agricultural related industry that employs thousands of Mexican Americans and Mexican Nationals who are often exploited by trafficking organizations in their effort to import and set up methamphetamine distribution networks. Additionally, an abundance of jobs available in food and cleaning services, the roofing industry, and meatpacking plants has resulted in an increase in illegal aliens who often facilitate methamphetamine importation. Clandestine manufacturing operations occur in rural, metropolitan and suburban areas.³
- Drug Free Community Support Program:
In FY 1999 three community coalitions in Iowa were awarded funding under the Drug Free Community Support Program. The coalitions received between \$64,000 and \$98,000 to prevent drug use in their areas. The coalitions include: The City of

Mason City (\$64,456), Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School (\$98,764), and The United Way of Central Iowa (\$93,050).⁴

➤ The Des Moines Weed and Seed Program:

The Des Moines Enterprise Community was designated an official Weed and Seed site by the U.S. Department of Justice in the fall of 1995. The Des Moines Weed and Seed law enforcement strategy involves continuation of a multi-agency effort to take action against serious and violent criminals, including drug traffickers. Community Policing incorporates the use of a bicycle patrol in the target area and ongoing cooperation between the Des Moines Police Department and Weed and Seed Steering committee members and area residents. The Des Moines Weed and Seed strategy for neighborhood restoration is closely tied to the Enterprise Community's efforts in the areas of economic revitalization and physical (infrastructure) improvements. Objectives include:" (1) linking Weed and Seed area residents with high quality job opportunities; (2) increasing the availability of high quality child care; (3) supporting beautification efforts; and (4) expanding support services for low- and moderate-income renters. Other activities include tutoring services, family coaching, GED preparation, pre-employment and job-training activities, and an adolescent pregnancy prevention program.⁵

➤ DARE Iowa

In March of 2000 DARE Iowa, in cooperation with the Iowa State Patrol, announced the graduation of 21 Law Enforcement Officers from DARE classes. The Law Enforcement Officers represented city, county and state agencies from all over the state. Following graduation the officers will be certified to teach the DARE program and will begin working with schools in their local area. The graduates have completed a 2 week intensive training with the DARE program. Graduates learn to help students say "no" to drugs and find positive alternatives. They also introduce ideas to students designed to help them build self-esteem and assist them with peer pressure.⁶

➤ Clandestine Laboratory Emergency Response Team:

The Department of Public Safety Clandestine Laboratory Emergency Response Team (CLERT) is comprised of specially trained law enforcement officers from the Division of Narcotics Enforcement, the Iowa State Patrol, and the Fire Marshal's Office, as well as chemists from the Division of Criminal Investigation. The CLERT provides assistance to city and county law enforcement throughout the state of Iowa. All CLERT members are certified by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration in the investigating, dismantling, and removing of clandestine narcotics laboratories. Chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotics present both environmental and explosive hazards to citizens and property of the state of Iowa. The clandestine laboratory team provides safe and environmentally sound disposal of these chemicals. In 1996, the CLERT team responded to 31 clandestine laboratories in the state. Drug lab callouts doubled in 1997 with 63 clandestine labs being seized. In the first part of 1998, there were 38.⁷

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The Crime Index Total in Iowa fell 7.9% between 1997 and 1998. Violent crimes were up .8% and property crimes were down 8.7% in 1998.⁸

Arrests in Iowa, 1998

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder and Non-negligent manslaughter	5	32
Forcible Rape	36	143
Robbery	85	318
Aggravated Assault	599	3,321
Burglary	903	2,107
Larceny Theft	4,720	10,690
Motor Vehicle Theft	359	805
Arson	109	150
Drug Abuse Violations	1,157	8,524
DUI	297	13,279
Liquor Laws	3,333	12,030
Drunkenness	335	8,802

- During 1998 in Des Moines, Iowa 57.1% of male arrestees and 66.7% of female arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of arrests. There were a total of 177 male arrestees tested and 33 female arrestees tested.⁹

Percent of Des Moines Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense Category, 1998

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Methamp.		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	12.2	28.6	34.7	14.3	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.9	57.1
Property	34.2	0.0	44.7	16.7	7.9	33.3	2.6	0.0	68.4	66.7
Drug	10.5	16.7	84.2	16.7	31.6	16.7	0.0	16.7	89.5	66.7
Prostitution	100	----	0.0	----	0.0	----	0.0	----	100	----
Other	14.3	35.7	34.3	14.3	10.0	35.7	0.0	0.0	48.6	71.4
Total	18.1	24.2	41.8	15.2	10.2	24.2	0.6	3.0	57.1	66.7

Drugs

- A survey of adults in Iowa during 1993 found that 12% had used a stimulant at least once in their lifetime. The authors suggest that methamphetamine is the reason that stimulant use is so high in Iowa.¹⁰

Substance	Lifetime Use
Marijuana	28%
Stimulants	12%
Cocaine	7%
Hallucinogens	6%
Sedatives	6%
Heroin	2%

Juveniles

- A survey of Iowa high school students indicated that 34.5% of them had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes. The national average for lifetime marijuana use was 47.1%.¹¹

Percent of Iowa High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1997

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	30.3	38.4	34.5
Current Marijuana Use (2)	13.7	21.2	17.5
Lifetime Cocaine Use	5.0	8.3	6.7
Current Cocaine Use	1.7	5.2	3.5
Lifetime "Crack" or "Freebase" Use	3.9	4.2	4.1
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	1.5	3.7	2.6
Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use (3)	1.1	2.7	1.9
Lifetime Use of Other Illegal Drugs (4)	13.2	13.8	13.5
Lifetime Use of Inhalants	14.8	18.9	16.9

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life
2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey
3. Used a needle to inject drugs
4. Other Drugs Include = LSD, PCP, MDMA, Heroin, Methamphetamine, and Mushrooms.

Trafficking and Seizures

- In Iowa during 1998 there was a total of 136,285 marijuana plants eradicated.¹²

Marijuana Plants Eradicated in Iowa, 1998	
Outdoor Operations	
Eradicated Plots Outdoors	7
Cultivated Plants	1,115
Ditchweed	134,620
Indoor Operations	
Indoor Grows Seized	9
Indoor Plants	550
Total	
Total Plants Eradicated	136,285
Number of Arrests	30
Weapons Seized	30
Assets Seized	\$4,168

- Methamphetamine use, trafficking, and production in Iowa has increased in recent years. Iowa has two major highways that intersect in the State; this helps to facilitate methamphetamine trafficking through and to the State. Rural areas in Iowa have seen an increase in methamphetamine production in clandestine labs. The Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement (DNE) indicate that methamphetamine is their main concern. In Iowa during 1998 narcotic officers seized 155 pounds of methamphetamine up from 117 in 1997. There was a total of 320 labs shut down in Iowa during 1998 up from 63 in 1997. The DNE estimates that 90% of the methamphetamine in Iowa is

smuggled into the State. In January of 1999 the Governor of Iowa devised a \$4 million dollar education and treatment plan to help halt methamphetamine use. Included in the plan is a sentencing proposal that would require a 99-year sentence for those that manufacture and sell methamphetamine to minors. Iowa has also launched a statewide public awareness campaign to educate communities about the dangers of meth.¹³

Enforcement

- The State of Iowa employed 7,035 law enforcement personnel. There were 4,964 officers and 2,071 civilians.¹⁴
- The following law enforcement task forces are in operation in Iowa under the Midwest HIDTA:¹⁵
 - Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement/State Fire Marshal/Division of Criminal Investigation* — three co-located task forces seek to measurably reduce methamphetamine importation, manufacturing, trafficking, consumption and the level of related violent crime within the state of Iowa.
 - DEA Des Moines Task Force* — a co-located, multi-agency task force who targets major methamphetamine manufacturing, importation, and distribution organizations and related violent crime in the Des Moines area.
 - Muscatine Task Force* — a co-located, multi-agency task force that targets methamphetamine distribution organizations in Iowa.
 - Mid-Iowa Drug Task Force (Marshall County)* — a four-county, multi-agency task force, co-located in central Iowa, will reduce the methamphetamine use, manufacturing, importation, distribution, and associated violent crime in the mid-Iowa counties, and the surrounding areas.

Courts

- Of the 401 Federal defendants in Iowa during FY1998 57.1% were charged with a drug related offense. The most common drug was methamphetamine 55%, followed by crack cocaine 23.1%, marijuana 11.7%, powder cocaine 6.1%, and heroin .8%.¹⁶

Corrections

- During 1998 there were 7,394 prisoners in Iowa, this is up 6.6% from 6,938 prisoners in 1997. Prisoners under the authority of the Iowa Department of Corrections are subject to testing for substances regulated by their Code. Not less than 5 percent of the entire inmate population is randomly selected for testing on a monthly basis. Also, inmates in substance abuse treatment are subject to testing upon entering treatment and as a condition of successful program completion. To expand its residential drug treatment capabilities, Iowa added three new projects providing services to a total of 79 adult and juvenile offenders in FY 1998. Iowa Department of Corrections completed 8,497 drug tests in 1998 and uses 12 drug dogs to assist in drug interdiction.¹⁷
- Drug crimes were the most common type of offense for which inmates were incarcerated at mid-year 1999. About 19% of inmates statewide were serving time for a drug crime as their most serious offense. Among female inmates, the percentage of drug offenders was higher; nearly 30% were serving time for a drug crime as their

most serious offense on June 30, 1999. During the past five years, drug offenders have comprised an increasing proportion of the inmate population, growing from about 13% of all inmates in 1994, to about 19% of all inmates in 1999.¹⁸

Treatment

➤ In FY 1997 there were 24,197 admissions for substance abuse in Iowa.¹⁹

Treatment Admissions in Iowa, 1997

Substance	Number of Admissions
Alcohol	7,726
Alcohol with Secondary Drug	5,235
Heroin	256
Crack Cocaine	1,429
Cocaine	550
Marijuana	5,025
Methamphetamine	3,573
Hallucinogens	39
PCP	7
Inhalants	29
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	24,197

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/>

² State of Iowa Web site: <http://www.state.ia.us/>

³ Midwest HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/midw-main.html>

⁴ ONDCP Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree.html>

⁵ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

⁶ Iowa Department of Public Safety Web site: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dps/index.html>

⁷ Iowa Division of Narcotic Enforcement : <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dps/dne/>

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1998*, October 1999

⁹ National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, April 1999

¹⁰ Iowa Department of Public Health, *Iowa 1993 Adult Household Survey of Substance Use and Treatment Needs*, January 1995

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance -- United States, 1997*, August 1998

¹² Drug Enforcement Administration, *1998 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppress Program Statistical Report*, March 1999

¹³ National Criminal Justice Association, *Policy and Practice -- The Rising Methamphetamine Crisis: An Examination of State Responses*, Spring 1999

¹⁴ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1998*, October 1999

¹⁵ Midwest HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/midw-main.html>

¹⁶ United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov>

¹⁷ Corrections Program Office Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cpo/>

¹⁸ Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, *State of Iowa 1999 Inmate Profile*, December 1999

¹⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episodes Data Set (TEDS) 1992-1997*, August 1999

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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